

## Claims

1. (currently amended) A magnetic head comprising:

a return pole piece;

a main pole piece;

a pole piece tip connected to the main pole piece and extending toward the return pole piece in a write gap, the pole piece tip having sides that slope inward as viewed from the an air-bearing surface and being narrower at a connecting surface with the main pole piece; and

an ion-milling mask for the pole piece tip in the write gap between the return pole piece and the pole piece tip, a shape of the ion-milling mask as viewed in a first plane perpendicular to the air-bearing surface being coincident with a shape of the pole piece tip as viewed in the first plane perpendicular to the air-bearing surface.

2-3. (canceled)

4. (currently amended) A magnetic head comprising:

a return pole piece;

a main pole piece;

a pole piece tip connected to the main pole piece and extending toward the return pole piece in a write gap, the pole piece tip having sides that slope inward as viewed from an air-bearing surface and being narrower at a connecting surface with the main pole piece; and

an ion-milling mask for the pole piece tip in the write gap between the return pole piece and the pole piece tip; and ~~The magnetic head of claim 1~~  
wherein the main pole piece is beveled to slope away from the pole piece tip.

5. (previously presented) The magnetic head of claim 1 wherein the ion-milling mask is alumina.

6. (previously presented) The magnetic head of claim 1 wherein the ion-milling mask is carbon.

7. (currently amended) A magnetic head comprising:

a return pole piece;

a main pole piece;

a pole piece tip connected to the main pole piece and extending toward the return pole piece in a write gap, the pole piece tip having sides that slope inward as viewed from an air-bearing surface and being narrower at a connecting surface with the main pole piece; and

an ion-milling mask for the pole piece tip in the write gap between the return pole piece and the pole piece tip; and ~~The magnetic head of claim 1~~ wherein the pole piece tip has a trapezoidal shape as viewed from the air-bearing surface.

8-9. (canceled)